

**SEC. 4. DISTRESSED, AT-RISK, AND ECONOMICALLY STRONG COUNTIES.**

(a) DESIGNATION OF AT-RISK COUNTIES.—Section 14526 of title 40, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by inserting “, **at-risk**,” after “**Distressed**”; and

(2) in subsection (a)(1)—

(A) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (C);

(B) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and” at the end; and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

“(B) designate as ‘at-risk counties’ those counties in the Appalachian region that are most at risk of becoming economically distressed; and”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 145 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 14526 and inserting the following:

“14526. Distressed, at-risk, and economically strong counties.”.

**SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 14703 of title 40, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

**“§ 14703. Authorization of appropriations**

“(a) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the amounts made available under section 14501, there are authorized to be appropriated to the Appalachian Regional Commission to carry out this subtitle—

“(1) \$95,200,000 for fiscal year 2007;

“(2) \$98,600,000 for fiscal year 2008;

“(3) \$102,000,000 for fiscal year 2009;

“(4) \$105,700,000 for fiscal year 2010; and

“(5) \$109,400,000 for fiscal year 2011.

“(b) TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE.—Of the amounts made available under subsection (a), the following amounts may be used to carry out section 14504:

“(1) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2007.

“(2) \$8,000,000 for fiscal year 2008.

“(3) \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2011.

“(c) ECONOMIC AND ENERGY INITIATIVE.—Of the amounts made available under subsection (a), the following amounts may be used to carry out section 14508:

“(1) \$12,000,000 for fiscal year 2007.

“(2) \$12,400,000 for fiscal year 2008.

“(3) \$12,900,000 for fiscal year 2009.

“(4) \$13,300,000 for fiscal year 2010.

“(5) \$13,800,000 for fiscal year 2011.

“(d) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts made available under subsection (a) shall remain available until expended.

“(e) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—Funds approved by the Appalachian Regional Commission for a project in an Appalachian State pursuant to a congressional directive shall be derived from the total amount allocated to the State by the Appalachian Regional Commission from amounts made available to carry out this subtitle.”.

**SEC. 6. TERMINATION.**

Section 14704 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by striking “2007” and inserting “2011”.

**SEC. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

The amendments made by this Act take effect on October 1, 2006.

**CONGRATULATING THE 15TH POET LAUREATE**

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 304.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the title of the resolution.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 304) congratulating Charles Simic on being named the 15th Poet Laureate of the United States of America by the Library of Congress.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 304) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

**S. RES. 304**

Whereas Charles Simic was born in Yugoslavia on May 9, 1938, and lived through the events of World War II;

Whereas, in 1954, at age 16 Charles Simic immigrated to the United States, and moved to Oak Park, Illinois;

Whereas Charles Simic served in the United States Army from 1961 to 1963;

Whereas Charles Simic received a bachelor's degree from New York University in 1966;

Whereas Charles Simic has been a United States citizen for 36 years and currently resides in Strafford, New Hampshire;

Whereas Charles Simic has authored 18 books of poetry;

Whereas Charles Simic is a professor emeritus of creative writing and literature at the University of New Hampshire, where he taught for 34 years before retiring;

Whereas Charles Simic is the 5th person to be named Poet Laureate with ties to New Hampshire, including Robert Frost, Maxine Kumin, Richard Eberhart, and Donald Hall;

Whereas Charles Simic won the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry in 1990 for his work “The World Doesn't End”;

Whereas Charles Simic wrote “Walking the Black Cat” in 1996, which was a finalist for the National Book Award for Poetry;

Whereas Charles Simic won the Griffin Prize in 2005 for “Selected Poems: 1963-2003”;

Whereas Charles Simic held a MacArthur Fellowship from 1984 to 1989 and has held fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts;

Whereas Charles Simic earned the Edgar Allan Poe Award, the PEN Translation Prize, and awards from the American Academy of Arts and Letters and the National Institute of Arts and Letters;

Whereas Charles Simic served as Chancellor of the Academy of American Poets;

Whereas Charles Simic received the 2007 Wallace Stevens Award from the American Academy of Poets; and

Whereas on August 2, 2007, Librarian of Congress James H. Billington announced the appointment of Charles Simic to be the Library's 15th Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates Charles Simic for being named the 15th Poet Laureate of the United States of America by the Library of Congress; and

(2) directs the Secretary of the Senate to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to Charles Simic.

**OPEN GOVERNMENT ACT OF 2007**

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed

to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 127, S. 849.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 849) to promote accessibility, accountability, and openness in Government by strengthening section 552 of title V, United States Code (commonly referred to as the Freedom of Information Act), and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am pleased that the Senate has passed the Leahy-Cornyn Openness Promotes Effectiveness in our National Government Act” (the “OPEN Government Act”), S. 849, before adjourning for the August recess. This important Freedom of Information Act legislation will strengthen and reinvigorate FOIA for all Americans.

For more than four decades, FOIA has translated the great American values of openness and accountability into practice by guaranteeing access to government information. The OPEN Government Act will help ensure that these important values remain a cornerstone of our American democracy.

I commend the bill's chief Republican cosponsor, Senator JOHN CORNYN, for his commitment and dedication to passing FOIA reform legislation this year. Since he joined the Senate 5 years ago, Senator CORNYN and I have worked closely together on the Judiciary Committee to ensure that FOIA and other open government laws are preserved for future generations. The passage of the OPEN Government Act is a fitting tribute to our bipartisan partnership and to openness, transparency and accountability in our government.

I also thank the many cosponsors of this legislation for their dedication to open government and I thank the Majority Leader for his strong support of this legislation. I am also appreciative of the efforts of Senator KYL and Senator BENNETT in helping us to reach a compromise on this legislation, so that the Senate could consider and pass meaningful FOIA reform this legislation before the August recess.

But, most importantly, I especially want to thank the many concerned citizens who, knowing the importance of this measure to the American people's right to know, have demanded action on this bill. This bill is endorsed by more than 115 business, public interest, and news organizations from across the political and ideological spectrum, including the American Library Association, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, OpenTheGovernment.org, Public Citizen, the Republican Liberty Caucus, the Sunshine in Government Initiative and the Vermont Press Association. The invaluable support of these and many other organizations is what led the opponents of this bill to come around and support this legislation.